

Remarks

This amendment results in an increase in the number of independent claims pending by four and a decrease in the total number of claims pending by two. This amendment is being filed within the period set for response to the outstanding office action. Additional fees are necessitated by this amendment, and the additional fees are enclosed herewith by way of a credit-card authorization form.

For the Specification:

In section 1, this Office Action objects to parts of the specification as containing grammatical and/or typographical errors.

Applicant hereby amends paragraphs [0052] and [0062] of the specification to correct minor typographical and/or grammatical errors. These amendments add no new subject matter.

For the Claims:

Applicant submitted claims 1-30, of which claims 1, 20, and 30 were independent claims. This Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10-11, 13, 18-20, 24-25, and 28-29, objected to claims 9, 12, 14-17, 21-23, and 26-27 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, and allowed claim 30. Applicant hereby cancels claims 1, 3 and 20, amends claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14, 18, 21, and 24-28, adds new claim 31, and retains claims 5, 8, 11, 13, 15-17, 19, 22-23, and 29-30 as originally and previously submitted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

In sections 3-7, this Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10-11, 13, 18-20, 24-25, and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dent (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,977) in view of Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,009) and further in view of Agee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,923), with some further in view of Martin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,214,768), Chalmers (U.S. Patent No. 5,375,146), Applebaum (U.S. Patent No. 5,510,796), and/or Applicant Admitted Prior Art.

In section 8, this Office Action objects to claims 9, 12, 14-17, 21-23, and 26-27 as being dependent upon rejected claims. This Office Action states these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In section 8, this Office Action also allows independent claim 30.

Applicant hereby rewrites claim 9 in independent form, including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 3, from which claim 9 originally depended. Now-independent claim 9 is believed allowable as amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of now-independent claim 9.

The limitations of claims 1 and 3 have been incorporated into now-independent claim 9. Applicant hereby cancels claims 1 and 3.

As originally submitted, claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10 depended from either claim 1 or claim 3. Applicant hereby amends claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10 to depend from now-independent claim 9. Inasmuch as now-independent claim 9 is believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10 to be allowable as amended by reason of dependency. Applicant

respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 10.

As originally submitted, claim 5 depended from claim 4, claim 8 depended from claim 7, and claims 11 and 13 depended from claim 10. Inasmuch as claims 4, 7, and 10 are believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claims 5, 8, 11, and 13 to be allowable as originally submitted by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 5, 8, 11, and 13.

Applicant hereby rewrites claim 12 in independent form, including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 10, from which claim 12 originally depended. Now-independent claim 12 is believed allowable as amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of now-independent claim 12.

As originally submitted, claim 18 depended from claim 1. Applicant hereby amends claim 18 to depend from now-independent claim 12. Inasmuch as now-independent claim 12 is believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claim 18 to be allowable as amended by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 18.

As originally submitted, claim 19 depended from claim 18. Inasmuch as claim 18 is believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claim 19 to be allowable as originally submitted by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 19.

Applicant hereby adds new claim 31 dependent from now-independent claim 12. Inasmuch as now-independent claim 12 is believed allowable as amended, applicant believes new claim 31 to

be allowable as submitted by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of new claim 31.

Applicant hereby rewrites claim 14 in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1, from which claim 14 originally depended. Now-independent claim 14 is believed allowable as amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of now-independent claim 14.

As originally submitted, claims 15, 16, and 17 depended from claim 14. Inasmuch as now-independent claim 14 is believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claims 15, 16, and 17 to be allowable as originally submitted by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 15, 16, and 17.

Applicant hereby rewrites claims 21, 26, and 27 in independent form, including all of the limitations of claims 20, from which claims 21, 26, and 27 originally depended. Now-independent claims 21, 26, and 27 are believed allowable as amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of now-independent claims 21, 26, and 27.

The limitations of claim 20 have been incorporated into now-independent claims 21, 26, and 27. Applicant hereby cancels claim 20.

As originally submitted, claims 24, 25, and 28 depended from claim 20. Applicant hereby amends claims 24, 25, and 28 to depend from now-independent claim 21. Inasmuch as now-independent claim 21 is believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claim 24, 25, and 28 to be allowable as amended by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 24, 25, and 28.

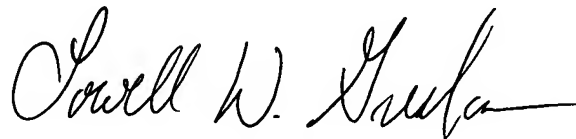
As originally submitted, claims 22 and 23 depended from claim 21 and claim 29 depended from claim 28. Inasmuch as now-independent claim 21 and claim 28 are believed allowable as amended, applicant believes claims 22, 23, and 29 to be allowable as originally submitted by reason of dependency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 22, 23, and 29.

This Office Action states that independent claim 30 is allowable. Applicant retains independent claim 30 as originally submitted.

Accordingly, this Amendment cancels claims 1, 3 and 20, amends claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14, 18, 21, and 24-28, and adds claim 31. Currently amended claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14, 18, 21, and 24-28 remain in the application and are believed to be allowable. In addition, claims 5, 8, 11, 13, 15-17, 19, 22-23, and 29-30 remain in the application as originally submitted and are believed to be allowable.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the rejections and/or objections recited in the 18 April 2007 Office Action and that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lowell W. Gresham', is written over a horizontal line.

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